Opening of new benches of High Courts

372. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of State Governments which have since made requisite arrangements in their States for opening of new benches of High Courts for which Central Government have been reminding them;

(b) the progress made for setting up of High Court benches in such States;

(c) the latest steps taken with regard to the rest of the States along with their names;, and

(d) the guidelines for opening of a bench of a High Court in a State?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b) The Central Government have been reminding the Government of Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram for making requisite arrangements for establishing Benches of the Gauhati High Court in their respective State Capitals. The Governments of Nagaland and Mizoram have so far made the requisite arrangments and permanent Benches of the Gauhati High Court have been established at Kohima and Aizawl on 10-2-90 and 5-7-90 respectively.

(c) The Jaswant Singh Commission made specific recommendations for establishment of Benches of the Allahabad, Madhya Pradesh and Madras High Courts, and general recommendation on the principles and criteria to be followed in the matter. The Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka were requested to send their proposals in the light of the recommendations of the Commission in consultation with the Chief Justices of the concerned High Courts. Their complete proposals have not been received. They have been reminded.

General recommendations of the Commission were sent to the remaining States for information and guidance.

(d) No guidelines have been prescribed. However, the Jaswant Singh Commission have made general recommendations in this regard.

Strikes in nationalised banks

373. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that banking operations in the country were paralysed many times during the last six months;

(b) if so, the number of strikes that were observed in the nationalised banks during the last six months;

(c) what are the bank-wise details thereof and what was the loss suffered by the nation on account of these strikes; and

(d) what action Government have taken or propose to take to avert the strikes, contain the losses to the exchequer to minimise hardships to the banking customers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (d) Trade unions operating in the banks resort to strikes both at the industry level and at bank level over their demands. As per available information three strikes were called by the unions/associations at the industry level during the year. The effect of a strike basically depends on the strength/following of the union/association which calls for the same. While such strikes do affect the operations of the banks, the quantum of loss suffered by the banks due to

strikes cannot be computed precisely in monetary terms because of the peculiar nature of banking operations and also due to unpredictable response to such strikes. Apart from strikes at the industry level, individual bank level unions may also call for strikes over some local issues, the impact of which may be confined to the whole bank or a particular area/branch. Since strikes etc. are called by the union/associations, they cannot be averted by the Government alone. However, conciliations/dialogues with the unions are usually attempted by the Indian banks Association/ Management/Labour authorities to avert intended strikes. In case a strike is imminent banks make arrangements for running skeleton services. Customers are also intimated about the intended strike through a notice in the newspapers to minimise the inconvenience caused to them. Appropriate actions like wage deductions etc are resorted to by the managements to deal with striking employees.

Vacancies in various High Courts

374. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA : Will the Minsiter of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of vacancies in each High Court and since how long the vacancies had remained unfilled when National Front Government assumed office,

(b) in how many cases the appointments of Judges to High Courts were not made or were rejected by the erstwhile Congress(I) Government at the Centre despite approval of names by the Chief Justice of India; and

(c) which are the High Courts in which relatives (sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, sons-in-law, sisters-in-law) of sitting Judges are practising as lawyers/ advocates?

THE MINSITER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) As on 1.12.1989, there were 83 posts of permanent and Additional Judges vacant in the various High Courts of the country out of the total sanctioned strength of 461. The dates from which these posts were vacant are given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below)

(b) It is not possible to indicate in how many cases the appointments of Judges of High Courts were not made or were rejected by the erstwhile Congress(I) Government, despite recommendation by the Chief Justice of India.

(c) The information regarding relatives etc. of sitting Judges who are practising as lawyers/advocates is not available.